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CANNOCK  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL  
REPORT



of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and the  
Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR  
1959

JUNE, 1960



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## ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,  
Cannock Rural District Council,  
Penkridge,  
Staffs.

Telephone: Penkridge 301/2.

June, 1960.

### TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for the Year 1959. The report has been compiled on the general lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

In the Cannock Rural District in 1959 the Live Birth Rate was 22.1 (adjusted—20.8) per 1,000 population, and the Death Rate 10.0 (adjusted—12.3), compared with respective figures of 16.5 and 11.6 for England and Wales. There were 601 live births in the rural district in 1959 (315 male, 286 female) and the total number of deaths was 272, live births thus exceeding total deaths by 329. Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 11 (7 male, 4 female), giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 18.3 per 1,000 live births, compared with a figure of 22.2 for England & Wales. The latter rate was the lowest annual rate ever recorded for England and Wales. Seven of the eleven infants who died in the rural district were under four weeks of age.

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever, 89 cases of Whooping Cough, and 370 cases of Measles were notified in 1959, compared with respective figures of 5, 6 and 98 in 1958. 1959 was one of biennial "Measles Years" in England and Wales. No cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis were notified.

Malignant diseases caused the deaths of 50 persons (23 male, 27 female) in 1959, 7 (all male) being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus. In England and Wales a further rise occurred in 1959 in the mortality from this latter disease, from 783 to 831 per millions in men and from 119 to 123 in women. There were two male deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in the Cannock R.D. in 1959.

The mid-1959 population of the Cannock Rural District was estimated by the Registrar-General as 27,200 compared with 26,470 at mid-1958, and 24,166 at the 1951 census.

In the body of the report, the Chief Public Health Inspector gives an account of the work of the Public Health Inspectorate in 1959.

The Public Health Department expresses thanks to the Public Health Committee and Council for their interest and help in the work of the Department. Thanks are also expressed to the Officers of the other Departments of the Council for their co-operation.

A. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1959.**

Chairman :

Councillor W. J. GARRATT.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor F. TILL.

Members :

Mr. H. Adams, Mr. G. T. Allen, Rev. A. N. Barsley, Mr. G. H. Bartlett, Mr. H. T. Bill, Mrs. D. E. Bowen, Mr. J. Greenaway, Miss C. M. Horton, Mr. G. F. Palmer, Mr. A. Parkes, Mrs. L. J. Perks, Mrs. W. Taylor, Miss M. J. Walker, Mr. F. W. Berry, Mr. R. A. R. Elsmore, Mr. W. H. Newall, Mr. W. E. Wellsbury, Mr. S. Williams, and Mr. W. E. Powell.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

Medical Officer of Health :

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.).

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. RICHARDSON, Certificate S.I.E.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.  
(Cert. Food Inspector).

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

O. W. PARNALL, Certificate S.I.E.J.B.

D. C. HOUGH, Certificate S.I.E.J.B., M.A.P.H.I. (Cert.  
Food Inspector), appointed 26th October, 1959.

Clerks :

Miss H. SPENCER.

Miss G. TAYLOR.



## GENERAL STATISTICS, SOCIAL CONDITIONS, AND HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	56,608
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	8,040
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£284,915
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,160
Yearly Rate levied in 1958/59	...	...	...	...	...	18/-
Mid-1959 Population (as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	27,200

There were no alterations in the boundaries of the Cannock Rural District in 1959.

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### INDUSTRIES

The working population of the district is engaged in Coal-mining, Agriculture, Brick and Tile Making, and Engineering.

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### LABORATORY FACILITIES, AMBULANCE FACILITIES, NURSING IN THE HOME, TREATMENT CENTRES AND HOSPITALS

Facilities for bacteriological examinations are made available to Medical Practitioners in the area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. Facilities include examination of throat swabs, sputum tests, blood tests, etc. The results of all examinations relevant to Public Health are made available to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health. The Director of the Stafford Laboratory is Dr. Mackay Scollay, whose expert advice is readily available to the Medical Officer of Health when occasion demands.

Bacteriological examinations of samples of water are undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

Chemical examinations of samples of water, sewage effluents, etc., are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory, Stafford, which is directed by Mr. Houlbrooke, the County Analyst.

The duty of providing Ambulance Services is placed upon



the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The responsibility for Isolation Hospitals for Infectious Diseases lies with the Regional Hospital Board. School Clinics, Infant-Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics are made available by the Staffordshire County Council in different parts of the district.

The district is well served by General Hospitals (Wolverhampton, Stafford), and by the General Medical Practitioners practising in the Area. District Nurses, Midwives, and Health Visitors do much good work in promoting the health and welfare of the inhabitants.

During the year, the Council subscribed to the Central Council for Health Education, which represented the Ministry of Health in Health Education matters. Use was made of Health Education leaflets, etc., relating to Infectious Diseases, Food Hygiene, and so on.

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1959

Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	272
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	10.0
Live Births:						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	601
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	22.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	...					5.3
Still Births:						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	20
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...	...				32.2
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	621
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 Year)	...	...	...	...	...	11
Infant Mortality Rates:						
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...					18.3
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	17.6
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	31.3
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	11.6
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	...	...	...	...	...	8.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	...	...	...	...	...	40.3
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)						
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	...					Nil.

In the Cannock Rural District in 1959, the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 22.1, compared with a rate of 16.5 for England and Wales (comparability factor 0.94). (Cannock R.D. Adjusted Live Birth Rate, 20.8).

The area comparability factors for use with crude birth and death rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. When local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 0.74, the figure for England and Wales being 0.35. 5.3 per cent of the live births were illegitimate (1 to 18). There were 601 live births in 1959 (32 of those being illegitimate) 315 were male children and 286 female. Still births totalled 20 (13 male, 7 female), one being illegitimate.

In the following table, comparative figures of Live and Still Births are shown for England and Wales.

YEAR	LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		STILL BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1959	22.1	16.5	0.74	0.35
1958	20.3	16.4	0.38	0.36
1957	18.7	16.1	0.46	0.37
1956	19.6	15.7	0.55	0.35
1955	16.7	15.0	0.40	0.35
1954	17.8	15.2	0.75	0.36
1953	19.3	15.5	0.73	0.35
1952	18.6	15.3	0.53	0.35
1951	17.4	15.5	0.50	0.36
1950	17.4	15.8	0.37	0.37
1949	18.3	16.7	0.37	0.39
1948	18.8	17.9	0.68	0.42

Illegitimacy Rate per 1,000 Live Births, 1959, Cannock Rural District, 53; England and Wales, 51.

### DEATHS

In 1959 the Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (comparability factor 1.23) was 10.0, compared with a rate of 11.6 for England and Wales. (Cannock R.D. Adjusted Death Rate 12.3). In the Cannock Rural District in 1959, total deaths numbered 272 (150 males and 122 females). The excess of live births over total deaths was 329. The Natural Increase for 1959 in England and Wales was 222,735.

# DEATHS—CAUSES, 1959.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .. ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic conditions	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasms: Stomach ..	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasms: Lung Bronchus	7	—	7
Malignant Neoplasms: Uterus ..	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasms: Breast	—	8	8
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	13	28
Diabetes .. .. .	1	3	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	27	25	52
Coronary Disease, Angina .. ..	30	9	39
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease .. .. .	16	22	38
Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	5	3	8
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	2	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	9	6	15
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	2	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	3	—	3
Congenital Malformations .. ..	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	4	3	7
All other Accidents .. .. .	3	2	5
Suicide .. .. .	—	1	1
Homicide .. .. .	—	—	—
All other Diseases .. .. .	16	11	27
Influenza .. .. .	1	2	3
TOTALS ..	150	122	272

## AGES AT DEATH AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL, 1959.

TOTAL DEATHS, 272.

Age Group	under 1	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	70-	80-	90 and over	Totals
Males ..	7	2	2	—	1	2	—	7	20	35	48	31	—	150
% Total	2.6	0.7	0.7	—	0.4	0.7	—	2.6	7.3	12.9	15.8	11.4	—	55.1
Females	4	—	1	—	—	1	1	7	15	24	36	27	6	122
% Total	1.5	—	0.4	—	—	0.4	0.4	2.6	5.5	8.8	13.2	9.9	2.2	44.9
Total ..	11	2	3	—	1	3	1	14	35	59	79	58	6	272
% ..	4.1	0.7	1.1	—	0.4	1.1	0.4	5.2	12.8	21.7	29.0	21.3	2.2	100.0

Twenty-one (7.7%) of the total deaths occurred under 40 years of age. This included 11 deaths (52% of total) under one year. 202 (74.3%) of the total deaths were at ages 60 years and over.

“In England and Wales, diseases of the circulatory system now account for over one-third of total deaths. Second in the hierarchy of destruction but an appreciable way behind, are the cancers, accounting for about one-sixth of the total, to be followed by vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system to the extent of one-seventh. Taking vascular lesions together with diseases of the heart we see that they account for over one-half the total number—thus supporting the truth of the maxim that a man is as old as his arteries.”

### DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

YEAR	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1959	10.0	11.6
1958	9.0	11.7
1957	8.6	11.5
1956	8.9	11.7
1955	11.9	11.7
1954	10.1	11.3
1953	9.1	11.4
1952	9.3	11.3
1951	13.4	12.5
1950	10.1	11.6
1949	10.3	11.7
1948	10.7	10.8

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 11 (7 male, 4 female), one illegitimate. Of these 11 children, 7 were under the age of four weeks. The Infant Mortality Rate in the Cannock Rural District was 18.3 per 1,000 live births, compared with 22.2 for England and Wales. The figure for England and Wales was the lowest annual rate ever recorded. At the turn of the century in England and Wales the Infant Mortality Rate was about 150 per 1,000 live births.



YEAR	DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1959	18.3	22.2
1958	20.4	22.6
1957	33.0	23.1
1956	18.1	23.8
1955	31.0	24.9
1954	26.6	25.4
1953	52.3	26.8
1952	28.6	27.6
1951	35.6	29.6
1950	54.4	29.8
1949	29.2	32.4
1948	36.2	34.0

There were 20 Still Births in the Cannock Rural District in 1959 (13 male, 7 female). This represents a Still Birth Rate of 32.2 per 1,000 live and still births compared with a figure of 21.0 for England and Wales.

Of the eleven children who died at under one year of age, seven were under four weeks, representing a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 11.6 per 1,000 live births. In England and Wales, deaths of infants under four weeks numbered 11,881, giving a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 15.8.

In England and Wales in 1959 live births registered during the year numbered 750,383, which was 11,046 more than in 1958. There were 16,629 deaths of children under one year of age in 1959, giving a rate of 22.2 per 1,000 live births, the lowest Annual Infant Mortality Rate ever recorded in England and Wales. In 1938 the rate was 52.8.

Total deaths in England and Wales in 1959 numbered 527,648, representing a rate of 11.6 per 1,000 population, compared with death rates of 11.7 in 1958 and 11.5 in 1957. There were 16,076 Still Births in 1959 in England and Wales. In the five years 1889-1893 in England and Wales, the Live Birth Rate was 30.8 per 1,000 population and the Death Rate was 19.7.

#### DEATHS—ENGLAND AND WALES

DISEASES	1950	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1958	1959
Respiratory Tuberculosis	14,079	9,335	7,913	7,069	5,837	4,853	3,999	3,475
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	1,890	1,250	989	828	655	522	488	380
Diphtheria ..	49	32	23	9	13	8	8	—
Whooping Cough ..	394	184	243	139	88	95	27	25
Measles ..	221	141	245	50	176	30	49	98
Malignant Disease of Lung and Bronchus	12,241	14,218	15,132	16,331	17,272	18,186	19,809	21,063
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,230	4,117	4,375	4,589	4,923	5,036	5,438	6,026

In 1959 the total of all road accident casualties in Britain numbered 333,453, an increase of 33,686 on 1958. Of these, 6,520 (increase 550) were killed, 80,672 (increase 11,506) seriously injured, and 246,261 (increase 21,630) slightly injured. Over the year as a whole, casualties increased by  $11\frac{1}{4}\%$  and traffic by 12%. Riders of motor-scooters and motor-cycles suffered the most serious increase in casualties. Altogether 1,592 riders and passengers lost their lives, an increase of 213. The killed and injured together numbered 91,239, an increase of 16,856. The number of two and three-wheeled motor vehicles in use increased by over 200,000 to 1,733,342.

During 1959 in road accidents in Britain, 2,520 pedestrians, 738 pedal cyclists, 88 moped riders, and 1,582 drivers of motor vehicles (other than motor-cyclists) and passengers were killed. Ten persons were killed and 71 seriously injured in accidents on the roads in the Cannock R.D. in 1959. In his statistical review of road accidents in 1959, the Chief Constable for Staffordshire writes, "With all the talk of road safety and accident reduction, the point still seems to be missed that it is the moral responsibility of the driver of any vehicle to ensure, as far as is humanly possible, that he does nothing that will cause an accident. The exercise of normal courtesy, restraint and co-operation on the part of all road users is more than ever necessary in these days of heavy traffic, and the sooner these points are properly appreciated by all concerned the sooner the accidents, most of which are caused by pure selfishness, will be decreased."

## **CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS**

The increase in the incidence of Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus continues to cause anxiety. Two conditions seem to be associated with its occurrence, air pollution and excessive cigarette smoking, though other factors at present unknown may also be operative. Active research is proceeding.

In the Cannock Rural District in 1959 there were seven deaths, all male, registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus, ages at death being 73, 70, 66, 66, 65, 58, 54 years. In England and Wales in 1959, deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus showed an increase from 783 to 831 per million population in men, and from 119 to 123 in women over the 1958 figures. Deaths from this cause numbered 21,063 (18,181 male, 2,882 female).

## CANCER—LUNG, BRONCHUS OR PLEURA ENGLAND AND WALES

Death Rates per Million

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES
1900	10	7
1920	17	10
1940	187	49
1955	693	105
1956	726	111
1957	759	116
1958	783	119
1959	831	123

In the Cannock Rural District in 1959 there were 50 deaths (23 male, 27 female) from Malignant Diseases (all forms). This represented 18.4% of the total deaths. The following table shows the mortality from Cancer, all forms, England and Wales.

“One disadvantage of an increased expectation of life at the present time is that a higher proportion of the population reach that stage of life when disorders of growth and degenerative processes begin to be inescapably manifest. The cancers are essentially disorders of growth; of the growth of certain cells which, evading the complex biological mechanism which decrees what form, size and position they shall normally take, grow uncontrolled at the expense of neighbouring structures which they impair or actually destroy. They also show great ability to disseminate themselves to other regions of the body where they come to rest and initiate the same destructive activity again.”

## MORTALITY FROM CANCER—ALL FORMS, ENGLAND AND WALES

YEAR	NUMBER OF DEATHS			DEATH RATE per Million Population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1944	35,887	37,610	73,497	2,217	1,741
1954	47,313	42,782	90,095	2,223	1,861
1956	48,932	43,769	92,701	2,274	1,891
1957	50,045	43,962	94,007	2,312	1,891
1958	50,732	45,067	95,799	2,333	1,929
1959	51,783	45,333	97,116	2,261	2,063



Of the total deaths from Cancer in 1959, Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus was responsible for 21,063 (18,181 males, 2,882 females). Cancer accounted for 18.4% of the total deaths, and Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus accounted for 4% of the total deaths in England and Wales in 1959.

### POPULATION—ENGLAND AND WALES

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
1801	4,254.735	4,637.801	8,892.536
1851	8,781.225	9,146.384	17,927,609
1901	15,728.613	16,799.230	32,527.843
1951	21,049.000	22,751.000	43,800.000
1958	21,744.000	23,365.000	45,109.000
1959	21,885.000	23,501.000	45,386.000

### POPULATION—ENGLAND AND WALES, AS AT 30th JUNE, 1959, BY SEX AND AGE (Figures in Thousands)

Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
Males .. ..	21,885	1,771	3,548	2,895	2,913	3,095	3,171	2,382	1,401	679
Females .. ..	23,501	1,681	3,383	2,886	2,941	3,195	3,295	2,526	2,052	1,237
Totals .. ..	45,386	3,452	6,936	5,781	5,854	6,290	6,466	5,208	3,453	1,916
% of Totals ..	100 %	7.6	15.3	12.7	13.0	13.9	14.2	11.5	7.6	4.2

The proportion of children and elderly people in the population has become significantly modified since 1901. In that year children under 15 amounted to 32% of the total and persons of 65 years and over to 5%. In 1959, the proportions were respectively 22.9% and 11.8%.

### EXPECTATION OF LIFE—ENGLAND AND WALES

On the basis of the death rates for the year 1958, the expectation of life for a boy at birth is given as 68 years and that of a girl as 74 years. This compares with 67 and 72 in 1953, 48.53 and 52.38 in 1901-1910, and with 40 years and 42 years in 1841.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases in the Cannock Rural District in 1959, compared with that of previous years, is shewn below in tabular form:

Disease	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Scarlet Fever ..	14	5	14	9	19	33	32	32	14	19	65	99
Whooping Cough ..	89	6	44	70	20	19	112	36	151	52	80	162
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	2
Erysipelas ..	1	2	1	6	1	1	3	1	3	1	5	8
Measles(excluding Rubella) ..	370	98	394	44	527	4	327	38	313	102	388	179
Primary Pneumonia ..	15	8	21	8	8	22	12	6	19	7	18	12
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Dysentery ..	6	—	—	—	29	46	1	—	3	2	—	1
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Polio-myelitis ..	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	2

Infectious Diseases notifications, 1959, shewing months of occurrence :

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para-Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Paralytic Polio-myelitis	Non-Paralytic Polio-myelitis
January ..	—	—	15	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ..	2	—	28	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ..	2	—	89	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April ..	1	—	61	16	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
May ..	3	—	61	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ..	—	—	51	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
July ..	2	—	47	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ..	1	—	14	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ..	—	—	2	6	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
October ..	—	—	—	9	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
November ..	2	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	1	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	14	—	370	89	15	6	2	—	—	1	—	—

The cases of dysentery notified were of the mild Sonne type. A great deal of infection could undoubtedly be prevented if the practice of thoroughly washing the hands after using the lavatory was universal. In fact, this simple act is the most effective of all the preventive measures applicable to this infection and its general performance would do much to limit the spread of the disease.

“According to the notifications the incidence of bacillary dysentery falls most heavily among children under 15 years of age. Herein lies the difficulty of the control of spread. The infection is spread by personal contact, direct or indirect, and infected hands are the common means of transference from the infected person to the healthy. The difficulty of inducing children, especially those under seven or eight years of age, to keep their hands clean and away from their mouths is notorious and is probably the principal cause of the lack of success in attempts to limit infection when once it begins to move.”

Names of Parishes in the Cannock Rural District shewing number of Houses (including farmhouses) approximate population figures and incidence of Infectious Diseases in each Parish in 1959.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1959														
NAME OF PARISH	Number of Inhabited Houses	Census Population 1951	Estimated Population Mid-1958	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles (including Rubella)	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid	Para-Typhoid	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Respiratory Tuberculosis
Acton Trussell and Badnall	145	432	432	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blymhill	152	500	500	2	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brewood	1,346	3,576	4,556	—	—	78	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheslyn Hay	897	3,130	3,140	2	—	37	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coppenhall	46	113	120	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunston	91	295	300	—	—	1	30	11	5	—	—	1	—	1
Essington	1,132	3,069	3,837	5	—	107	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Featherstone	373	1,655	1,875	—	—	11	19	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Great Wyrley	1,604	4,287	4,790	—	—	44	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hatherton	169	511	500	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilton	93	383	383	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Huntington	366	1,587	1,700	—	—	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lapley	244	780	780	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Penkridge	961	2,518	2,951	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saredon	143	428	500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shareshill	122	301	320	3	—	15	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton	49	182	150	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teddesley Hay	25	136	106	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston-under-Lizard	82	273	260	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8,040	24,166	27,200	14	—	370	89	15	6	—	—	1	—	6

# AGE AND SEX INCIDENCES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1959

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles		Whooping Cough		Primary Pneumonia		Dysentery		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para-Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Polymyellitis		Respiratory Tuberculosis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year																						
1—	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	—	—	10	15	5	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—	—	—	—	—	23	22	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—	—	—	—	—	23	20	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9	1	2	—	—	23	24	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	1	4	—	—	107	85	21	20	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15—24	2	2	—	—	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
25—44	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 Years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	8	—	—	198	172	36	53	8	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	3



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1959 no action under Section 47 of the above Act was taken by the Council.

### SCARLET FEVER

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1959, compared with 5 in 1958. No deaths were recorded.

It has been stated that Scarlet Fever is a diminishing hazard to the child life of this country and is now important principally as a cause of interference with the schooling of children. In 1870, 32,543 deaths from Scarlet Fever were recorded in England and Wales; in 1959 there was one death.

SCARLET FEVER—ENGLAND AND WALES							
Year .. ..	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	
Cases .. ..	58,047	74,831	70,667	65,889	48,744	67,261	
Deaths .. ..	42	37	27	33	15	8	
Case Fatality (%)	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.01	
Year .. ..	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	
Cases .. ..	61,180	43,026	32,619	33,103	29,547	38,853	
Deaths .. ..	4	4	2	1	3	4	
Case Fatality (%)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	

Scarlet Fever continues to be relatively mild, having a fatality ratio of 0.01 deaths per 100 notified cases.

### MEASLES

370 cases of Measles were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1959, compared with 98 in 1958. No deaths were recorded.

The early infectiousness of Measles makes the application of preventive measures practically impossible and largely accounts for the extremely rapid spread of the infection throughout the susceptible sections of the child community. Measles, often negligible as a disease, is pre-eminently a "school disease" and, when large outbreaks occur, it is capable of causing a good deal of disorganisation in the children's curricula. Fortunately, absence from school on account of Measles should not exceed 10 days. The decline in the fatality ratio of Measles has been occurring in the group under five years of age, in which Measles was formerly apt to be a serious disease.

MEASLES—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year .. ..	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cases .. ..	393,787	399,606	385,935	367,725	616,192	389,502
Deaths .. ..	644	327	307	221	317	141
Case Fatality (%)	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.04
Year .. ..	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Cases .. ..	545,050	146,995	693,803	160,556	633,678	259,308
Deaths .. ..	242	45	174	28	94	49
Case Fatality (%)	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02

## WHOOPIING COUGH

89 cases of Whooping Cough were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1959, compared with 6 in 1958. No deaths were recorded.

### Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Towards the end of 1953 immunisation against Whooping Cough facilities were made available by the County Council as Local Health Authority. Immunisation involves three injections at monthly intervals between each injection, commencing when the child is 3—4 months old, but available for older children. The complications and sequelae of Whooping Cough can be very serious in childhood, and parents will wish to take full advantage of the protection which immunisation offers against such infection. Immunisations are carried out at the various Infant Welfare Centres and by family doctors.

In the Cannock Rural District during 1959, 379 children were immunised against Whooping Cough and 39 received re-inforcing doses.

“Whooping Cough is another of the infections which is also losing its maleficent features. Over the past ten years, the fatality ratio has fallen from 0.51 in 1949 to 0.08 in 1958. The number of cases is also shewing a falling trend, though past experience shews that figures of incidence bear little relationship to each other from one year to another.”

WHOOPIING COUGH—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year .. ..	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Cases .. ..	92,682	146,410	102,816	157,781	169,441	114,869
Deaths .. ..	905	748	527	394	453	181
Case Fatality (%)	0.98	0.51	0.51	0.25	0.27	0.16
Year .. ..	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Cases .. ..	157,842	105,912	79,133	92,410	85,018	33,404
Deaths .. ..	243	139	87	92	87	27
Case Fatality (%)	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.08

## POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1959.

“ The identification of neurotropic viruses, other than that of poliomyelitis is throwing doubt upon the validity of much of the clinical diagnosis of non-paralytic poliomyelitis. An aseptic meningitis associated with coxsackie virus, which occurred during 1958, might well have been diagnosed non-paralytic poliomyelitis had not the causal virus been identified. Exactly what proportion of error has been caused in the past on account of the difficulty of differential clinical diagnosis will never now be known, but as the laboratory service extends its cover over the country there should be much less confusion in the future.”

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During 1956 the Staffordshire County Council as Local Health Authority made arrangements for a start to be made in the vaccination of children against Poliomyelitis. The supply of vaccine was limited and vaccination was restricted to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. Primary Vaccination involved two injections with an interval of at least three weeks between the first and second injections. In the Cannock Rural District in 1958, 2,682 persons were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis as compared with 735 the previous year. In 1959, 3,404 persons received two injections of Poliomyelitis Vaccine (age-group 1933 to 1959) and 1,874 persons in the same age-group received a third injection.

POLIOMYELITIS—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year .. ..	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Total Cases ..	7,776	1,855	5,982	7,760	2,614	3,910
Deaths ..	707	241	657	755	217	295
Year .. ..	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Total Cases ..	4,547	1,960	6,331	3,200	4,844	1,994
Deaths ..	338	134	270	137	255	154



## DIPHTHERIA

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1959. The last case was notified in 1952.

DIPHTHERIA—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year	Annual Average 1916—1925		Annual Average 1933—1942		1951	1952
Notifications	51,573		55,125		664	376
Deaths	4,214		2,783		30	30
Fatality Ratio (%) ..	8.2		5.0		4.5	6.1
Year	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Notifications	266	173	155	53	37	80
Deaths	20	8	12	3	4	8
Fatality Ratio (%) ..	7.5	4.6	7.7	5.7	10.8	10.0

In the Cannock Rural District in 1959 facilities were available for the Diphtheria Immunisation of children at schools, Welfare Centres, and by private practitioners. 473 children received primary immunisation, and 361 children received reinforcing or "boosting" doses.

The fullest publicity is advocated by the Ministry of Health as essential if parents are to be helped to realise that Diphtheria is still a deadly threat and to be persuaded to have their children immunised. The incidence of Diphtheria continues to fall. Records of corrected notifications were first kept in 1944, and in that year there were 23,199 notifications and 934 deaths.

Scarcely less important than the primary immunisation is the re-inforcing injection known as the "booster dose." The protection conferred by the primary immunisation wanes with the passage of time and, after about five years, it has fallen to such a degree as to be virtually ineffective. Another injection of the immunising substance boosts and restores the protection to its full value, hence the term "booster dose" given to it.

"Despite the spectacular initial success of the immunisation campaign, Diphtheria is still with us. There seems to be a hard core of infection persisting in the country which reveals its presence from time to time, and reminds us that immunising procedures cannot be allowed to lapse. The primary immunisation carried out in childhood, though valuable, is not enough. Its effect gradually wanes and necessitates the administration of re-inforcing doses at later dates."

## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

In the Cannock Rural District in 1959, 180 children under 15 years were vaccinated. A further 24 persons over 15 were vaccinated.

It is felt that routine infant vaccination, together with re-vaccination on entering and leaving school (at ages 5 and 15) would greatly reduce the vulnerability of the community to the spread of smallpox. Smallpox has become so rare in this country that its high mortality and legacy of dreadful disfigurement are in danger of being forgotten. Vaccination and re-vaccination is the answer to this situation.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The following table is culled from the Tuberculosis Register maintained by the Cannock Rural District Council—figures as at 31st December, 1959 (1958 figures in brackets).

CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL								
Respiratory Tuberculosis			Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
70 (70)	71 (72)	141 (142)	16 (11)	17 (14)	33 (25)	86 (81)	88 (86)	174 (167)

Two deaths (both males) from Respiratory Tuberculosis were recorded in the rural district in 1959. Six cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified (3 male, 3 female) during the year.

In England and Wales in 1959, the fall in Tuberculosis deaths continued, the total number of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis being 3,475. In 1939 deaths from this cause numbered 21,542. In the 1850's in England and Wales, over 50,000 persons died each year from Respiratory Tuberculosis.

"One of the major phenomena of our time is the way in which tuberculosis has become not only very less prevalent, but also much less fatal. The fact is especially marked in the younger members of the population, and gives promise of less tuberculosis among the elderly in the coming decades. This is not to say that we can write off tuberculosis as of negligible importance in its effect on the health of the community; it remains and will remain for the foreseeable future a specific problem."

## HOUSING, Etc.

Captain Page, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, has kindly let me have the following comments re work in 1959.

**"Housing.**—The Council completed 183 new dwellings during 1959, easily the highest number for any previous year. At the year end, there were a further 273 dwellings under construction.

Private enterprise houses completed in 1959 totalled 221, slightly less than in the previous year.

**Sewage Disposal.**—The sewerage scheme for Shareshill was completed in 1959, including two pumping stations which discharge the sewage to the existing sewers at Featherstone.

The new sewage disposal works at Brewood, designed to deal with 82,000 gallons per day, D.W.F., was completed.

Both the above schemes were designed and supervised by the surveyor's department.

The new disposal works at Coven, designed by Sir A. Waters and Partners, was commenced."

### CANNOCK R.D.C.—NEW HOUSES BUILT IN 1959

Parish	By Council	By Private Enterprise
Acton Trussell and Bednall	—	1
Blymhill .. ..	—	1
Brewood .. ..	—	46
Cheslyn Hay .. ..	17	4
Coppenhall .. ..	—	—
Dunston .. ..	—	—
Essington .. ..	6	67
Featherstone .. ..	16	1
Great Wyrley .. ..	144	43
Hatherton .. ..	—	1
Hilton .. ..	—	—
Huntington .. ..	—	1
Lapley .. ..	—	1
Penkridge .. ..	—	49
Saredon .. ..	—	1
Shareshill .. ..	—	5
<b>TOTALS .. ..</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>221</b>

Mr. Bates, the Council's Housing Manager, writes: "During 1959 new development was confined to the parishes of Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay, together with a limited number of bungalows only at Featherstone and Essington. The year saw the completion of the clearance of the Holly Close Site at Landywood, and in all some 17 families were re-housed from there during the 12 months period. A further five families were re-housed from the Middle Hill Camp; three families from

hutments at Pottal Pool, and a further 15 families from other condemned properties in the rural district. During the year therefore, some 40 families were re-housed from sub-standard accommodation in the area.

The clearance of the Middle Hill Site has continued, although progress has been somewhat slow during the last few months. The Council has, however, now decided to proceed with the matter with some urgency, and it is hoped that by one means or another it will be possible to clear the site completely during the course of the next few months.

At 31st December, 1959, the following properties were in the care of the Housing Manager:—

Council Houses (including Purchased Properties) ...	1,579
Prefabs ... ..	30
Hutments, Walsall Road, Great Wyrley ... ..	22
Hutments, Cannock Road, Westcroft ... ..	20
Hutments, Gravel Lane, Huntington ... ..	15
Hutments, Primrose Park, Penkridge ... ..	29
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>1,695</b>

183 Council properties were completed during the year.

Towards the end of 1959, a review of the Housing Waiting List was completed, and it is interesting to note that some three hundred cases did not renew their applications at that time. The waiting list was reduced from over 1,300 to approximately 1,000, but at the time of writing (June, 1960) the list has again increased to over 1,200 in spite of the number of dwellings which have become available for letting since then. An analysis of the Housing Waiting List is given to the Housing Committee each month.

There are, of course, new properties under construction at Brewood, Penkridge and Huntington, all of which were commenced during 1959, and, whilst in none of these parishes has a start been made with the actual lettings, it is anticipated that a start will in fact be made in each case during the next few weeks."

A. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.



## REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### Summary of Inspections and work done during 1959

Number of Houses inspected for repairs	...	...	143
Re-inspections, calls, etc.	...	...	200
Slaughter-house Licences renewed	...	...	8
Meat and Food Inspections	...	...	806
Petrol Licences renewed	...	...	59
New Petrol Licences issued	...	...	—
Drainage work examined	...	...	106
Cases of Infectious Disease investigated	...	...	10
New Licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	...	...	2
Renewal Licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	...	...	18
Informal Notices issued (affecting 46 houses)	...	...	43
Statutory Notices issued	...	...	8
Samples taken of Drinking Water:			
Chemical	...	...	17
Bacteriological	...	...	22
Moveable Dwelling Licences issued (New)	...	...	3
Moveable Dwelling Licences (Renewed)	...	...	15
Visits re Moveable Dwellings	...	...	133
Visits re Refuse Matters	...	...	149
Visits re Disinfestation for Vermin	...	...	11
Demolition Orders served	...	...	15
Closing Order served	...	...	—
Houses Demolished	...	...	6

## RODENT CONTROL, 1959

### Premises Inspected

			Total Inspected	Found Infested	Found Non-Infested
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	24	23	1
Business Premises	...	...	11	11	—
Agricultural	...	...	1	1	—
Local Authority	...	...	11	11	—
			<hr/> 47	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 1

### Visits to carry out Treatments of Infestations

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	...	...	95
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	63
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	15
Local Authority	...	...	...	...	53
					<hr/> 226

## PARTICULARS OF NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER MAINS

			Houses	Houses Supplied Direct
Acton and Bednall	...	...	145	104
Blymhill	...	...	152	85
Brewood	...	...	1,348	1,298
Cheslyn Hay	...	...	922	920
Coppenhall	...	...	46	46
Dunston	...	...	91	36
Essington	...	...	1,240	1,110
Featherstone	...	...	378	377
Hatherton	...	...	171	165
Hilton	...	...	93	87
Huntington	...	...	367	367
Lapley	...	...	244	211
Penkridge	...	...	961	882
Saredon	...	...	146	136
Shareshill	...	...	124	120
Stretton	...	...	49	45
Teddesley Hay	...	...	28	22
Weston under Lizard	...	...	82	77
Great Wyrley	...	...	1,628	1,624

## ANTHRAX

During the year one suspected case of Anthrax (which was not confirmed) was reported, compared with three suspected cases in the previous year.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

The following shows the number and type of factories in the area.

Premises	No. on the Register	No. of Inspections made during 1959
(1) Non-mechanical ..	16	10
(2) Mechanical Factories	47	26
Total .. ..	63	36

## WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies to the district during 1959 were from The Staffordshire Water Works Company, The Wolverhampton Corporation, The Stafford Corporation, and the East Shropshire Water Board. The quality of these waters remained satisfactory.

The water from none of the three sources was plumbo-solvent.

SOURCE	No. of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	No. of Samples taken for Chemical Analysis	RESULTS			
			Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
			Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.
Wells (Private)	16	13	2	2	14	11
Springs (Private)	1	1	—	1	1	—
Bores (Private)	1	1	1	1	—	—
Main Supplies	1	1	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	19	16	4	5	15	11



## SPECIAL MILK LICENCES

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	Tuberculin Tested
Supplementary Licences	8	7	8
Dealers' Licences	10	17	7

## FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Fried Fish and Chip Shops and Manufacturers of Preserved Foods	...	...	...	...	12
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	125

In addition to routine visits made to the above premises, other establishments where food is handled, stored or sold have been visited. These include provision shops, butchers, and cafes, etc.

The number and description of the various types of food premises in the district are set out below :—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	60
Bakers	...	...	...	...	1
Cafes, Inns, etc.	...	...	...	...	64
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	16
Butchers	...	...	...	...	24
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	10

All foodstuffs condemned in shops during the year are listed below :—

- 4 tins Cooked Ham.
- 4 tins Chopped Pork.
- 4 tins Minced Beef Loaf.
- 8 tins Irish Stew.
- 15 tins Corned Beef.
- 3 tins Pork Luncheon Meat.

These items are disposed of by burial or burning under supervision of this department. In case of meat being found unfit for human consumption, it is coloured with an approved dye and generally disposed of for industrial purposes.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected .. .. .	1,534	1,043	3,615	3,030
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</b>				
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	Nil	5	6	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	271	4	155	129
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. .. .	17.7 %	.81 %	4.45 %	4.32 %
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>				
Whole carcases condemned ... ..	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	39	Nil	Nil	53
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	2.67 %	Nil	Nil	1.75 %
Cysticercus Bovis— Cases affected .. .. .	1	—	—	—
Total Meat Inspection visits .. .. .			..770	

### Number of visits made to each individual Slaughter-house during 1959

Mr. T. J Churchill, Forge Farm, Wheaton Aston	... 26
Mr. W. Gibbs, Market Place, Brewood	... 33
Mr. J. B. Whitehouse, Blymhill Lawn, Blymhill	... 13
Mr. W. Owen, The Larches, Coven	... 84
Mr. J. Richards, Wolverhampton Road, Essington	... 43
Mr. A. Churchill, The Laurels, Wheaton Aston	... 8
Mr. H. P. Westwood, 203, Station Street, Cheslyn Hay	... 304
Mr. G. Yates, Trial Pit, Newtown, Essington	... 257

G. RICHARDSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.





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V. L. Withington, Printer, Cannock

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